

Performance Based Assessments: The New Final Exam



East Porter County School Corporation is Making it Happen!



WE ARE A rural school corporation with an enrollment of approximately 2,440 students located in Porter County. We house three elementary schools and three middle/high schools.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES Enrollment is made up of 20.5% free/reduced population as well as 13.7% special education population. Our ethnicity is made up of 10.6% of races other than white.

OUR TEACHERS 154 teachers total in grades K-12 across the district. 59 teachers participated in writing performance assessments. Training was through videos and documents created by the curriculum director.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE We began to evaluate our final exams and whether or not they were truly measuring what we wanted at the end of a course: higher-order thinking skills and the application of student learning to new situations. We determined they were not. We required teachers to develop and administer performance assessments as a final exam in the second semester in our high school courses across the district. This shift required students to both show and apply what they learned through either open-response questions, performance tasks or a combination of both.

OUR STEPS A survey was sent asking teachers' input on final exams. Two meetings were held to gather input on how to improve SLO assessments. A decision was made to use performance-based assessments. The Curriculum Director made training videos and supporting documents. Teachers watched videos in teams with a teacher facilitator. Teachers wrote assessments. Assessments went through an approval process. Next a survey will be sent out to teachers and students to assess what went well and what needs improvement in the process. This fall we will revise the assessments that were written.

IN OUR OWN WORDS "At Morgan Township High School, we are excited about the future prospects with the use of performance-based assessments. Last semester's piloting of the program (and process) was time and labor intensive, but I am very proud of the work that was put in and the product that was created by all the teachers across the East Porter District. We look forward to fine-tuning and improving this program, so that we can insure that students are developing their application and problem-solving skills across the curriculum. This is only the beginning, but I am confident that our students are going to be even more college and career ready, and capable thinkers, as we move forward," Chris George, Morgan Twp. Middle High School Principal

For more information about our school or corporation, email: brandie.muha@eastporter.k12.in.us or visit our website: <https://www.eastporter.k12.in.us>